



# NEWS RELEASE

FOREST HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

For Release: Jan. 12, 2011

Contact: Frank R. Webb, Jr., Acting Chief of Police  
[fwebb@forestheightsmd.gov](mailto:fwebb@forestheightsmd.gov), (301) 839-4040

## Responding to Police Traffic Stops

Recent concerns regarding yielding to police vehicles may have alarmed some citizens, but a few simple actions on your behalf could help to secure your safety while you oblige a police officer's lawful authority to initiate traffic stops.

Whether the vehicle is marked with police logos or unmarked all emergency police vehicles must display lights that are red, blue or red and blue; and most vehicles will also be equipped with an audible siren. TA § 21-405 of the Maryland Vehicle Law requires that "driver of every other vehicle, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall drive immediately to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the edge or curb of the roadway, clear of any intersection" when an emergency vehicle approaches.

Consider the following courses of action if unsure about the red and blue lights behind you:

- If a driver is unsure about whether or not the vehicle is truly a police vehicle he/she should immediately call 911 and indicate that he/she is being signaled by a vehicle with red and blue lights to stop, giving his/her location and direction of travel. Dispatchers will be able to contact the officer and notify you that the traffic stop is being conducted by a police officer.
- Drivers should indicate their intent to yield to the police, which can be accomplished by activating their hazard lights and slowing down. Failure to display intent to yield and **failing to actually stop** could be construed as a violation of TA § 21-904, an offense for which the driver can be arrested.
- It is also recommended that drivers pull into a well lit and well occupied area (such as a shopping center or gas station).
- Never argue with the individual who has stopped you. Police may demand your driver's license, vehicle registration card and even have you stop out of the vehicle. Resistance to a police officer's lawful orders could result in your arrest.

Police want to remind motorists that obeying speed laws and street signs can significantly reduce the likelihood of personal injury and property damage. For more tips regarding public safety and please contact your Community Resource Officer at (301) 839-4040.

###